



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

*Celebrating 25 Years of Advocacy & Achievement*

## COMMISSIONERS

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Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW  
Martha Trevino Powell  
Dr. Harriette F. Williams

## APPROVED MINUTES

The General Meeting of the Commission for Children and Families was held on Monday, **May 3, 2010**, in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles. **Please note that these minutes are intended as a summary and not as a verbatim accounting or transcription of events at this meeting.**

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (Quorum Established)

Carol O. Biondi	Steven M. Olivas, Esq.
Patricia Curry	Dr. Maria A. Rochart
Ann Franzen	Sandra Rudnick
Susan F. Friedman	Stacey Savelle
Helen A. Kleinberg	Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW
Dr. La-Doris McClanney	Martha Trevino Powell
Rev. Cecil L. Murray	Dr. Harriette F. Williams

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:06 a.m.

### **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Self introductions were made.

### **III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- **May 3, 2010**

#### **Action Taken:**

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner McClanney, the agenda for May 3, 2010, was unanimously approved. Chair Curry noted that Item VI-c *Data Systems – Enterprise Master Person Index (EMPI)* will be discussed following Item VI- a *Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and Transitional Age Youth (TAY)*. Item VI d was continued, without objection, to May 17, 2010.

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**IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- **April 5, 2010**

**Action Taken:**

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Rochart, the minutes for April 5, 2010, were unanimously approved.

**V. CHAIR'S REPORT**

There was none.

**VI. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

**a. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and  
Transitional Age Youth (TAY)**

**Sandra Thomas, DMH  
Terri Boykins, DMH**

Ms. Sandra Thomas, DMH, reported the following:

- The MHSA became State law in 2005 following approval of Proposition 63. Through the MHSA, \$90 million were originally allocated to serve individuals with mental health needs, and \$10.3 million was specifically set aside to serve youth, ages 16-25, with mental illnesses.
- The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health is prioritizing two of the five components identified by the State Department of Mental Health (SDMH) which include: 1) Community Services and Supports, and 2) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI).
- 42 Full Service Partnerships (FSP,) with units that are specifically designed for Tier II TAY Wraparound, and Full Clinical Capable Services (FCCS), currently service 1,071 youth. Copies of documents detailing services delivered in Fiscal Years 07/08, 08/09, and 09/10, as well as, a spreadsheet summarizing authorized referrals by County wide Administration ([copies on file](#)), were discussed.

Ms. Terri Boykins, provided information regarding services DMH offers to the TAY population, which includes, but are not limited to, assessments, intensive mental health treatment, therapy, support, and education through FSPs. Access to services is available seven days week, 24 hours a day.

A report entitled, "MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention Plan for Los Angeles County –Plan Highlights August 27, 2009" ([copy on file](#)), was distributed. DMH Staff was invited to return to a future meeting to discuss PEI in greater detail.

**Action Taken:**

After, discussion, the Commission received and filed the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) report provided by DMH, and requested that DMH representatives return to a future meeting to discuss the Prevention and Early Intervention Plan (PEI).

**b. Data Systems - Enterprise Master Person Index (EMPI) Robert Greenless, DMH**

Mr. Robert Greenless, DMH, reported the following:

- While County is working on selecting and implementing an Enterprise Master Person Index (EMPI) system, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) is implementing an interim solution in the form of a Referral Tracking System (RFS). RFS improves coordination of services to clients by allowing DMH staff in co-located sites to receive hardcopy referrals and enter them into the RFS. Once in the RFS they are matched, monthly, to existing DMH client records to identify any referrals that involve existing DMH clients. RFS is also the means by which DMH staff can track referrals to DMH whether for new or existing clients.
- RFS was piloted in Service Planning Areas (SPAs) 1, 6, and 7. Some changes to the system were made after the pilot test. RFS will next be implementing in SPA 3. Timing for the deployment to the other SPAs has not yet been determined.
- EMPI has been a project, in one form or another, in the County since the 1980's. It began as a Department of Health Services (DHS) project and was later expanded to multiple departments in the County Strategic Plan.
- The EMPI will contain primarily demographic information about County clients. DCFS, DHS and DMH will be the initial departmental users of the system. Other departments, such as Probation, will be added later.
- Sheila Shima, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, has agreed to be the Executive Sponsor for EMPI in order to provide County-level direction for the project.
- The EMPI will assign a County unique identifier to each client and will crosswalk that identifier to client record identifiers used by DCFS, DMH, and DHS.
- EMPI will not, by itself, be the vehicle for exchange of healthcare and other service delivery information about County clients. It will create the means by which such information exchange can be done accurately and reliably.

- EMPI will have role-based security to assure that only authorized personnel see protected information. Authorized users would, under certain defined circumstances, be able to use information from EMPI to identify other departments with whom they may need to coordinate service delivery.
- It is not yet clear if an RFP will be necessary in order select an EMPI vendor. If an RFP is deemed necessary, this could delay the beginning of EMPI implementation by as much as 18 months beyond what could be achieved if the procurement is done under an existing County Master Agreement.

**Action Taken:**

After discussion, the Commission received and filed the verbal report provided by Mr. Robert Greenless, DMH, on the Enterprise Master Person Index (EMPI).

**c. Community Coalition Kinship Wellness Model  
and Mental Wellness Needs in Kinship Care**

**Joseph Devall, President  
Aurea Montes-Rodriguez,  
MSW, Vice President**

Aurea Montes-Rodriguez, Community Coalition, reported the following:

- The Community Coalition was founded by community leaders, including California Assembly Speaker, Karen Bass, as a non-profit organization in 1990 in response to the 1980's crack cocaine epidemic in South Los Angeles.
- The goal of the Coalition was to provide preventative community-centered solutions to the drug problem. The Coalition works with African American and Latino residents to build a prosperous and healthy South Los Angeles.
- Children's Social Workers are the first responders to community problems, and Kinship is a significant population in the area. More than 50% of all families have Kinship involvement; Community Coalition estimates that there are at least three to four caregivers per block in South Los Angeles.
- The three needs of Kinship caregivers are:
  1. Neighborhood based services accessibility.
  2. Access to child care and respite care.
  3. Assistance with Legal rights of child to make decisions.
- The Community Coalition has partnered with Casey Family Programs and Kinship In Action (KIA), and met with ASFA and DCFS Director Trish Ploehn to voice its concerns and advocate for Kinship caregivers.

Joseph Devall, President, Community Coalition, requested that the Commission meet with them to discuss support for their programs and to bring their requests to the attention of the Board.

**Action Taken:**

After discussion, the Commission received and filed the Community Coalition Wellness Model and Mental Wellness Needs in Kinship Care report ([copy on file](#)) provided by Joseph Devall, President, and Aurea Montes-Rodriguez, Vice President of the Community Coalition. In addition, Chair Curry, DCFS Director Trish Ploehn, and Commissioners Kleinberg and Rudnick will meet with the Community Coalition to discuss their concerns and recommendations for possible action.

**VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

There was none.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was none.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Curry at 12:07 p.m.